

NEBRASKA STATE FIRE MARSHAL OFFICIAL INTERPRETATION



Interpretation Number: 01-02

Date: 31 October 2003

Pamphlet Number: NFPA 101, 2000 ed.

Section(s): 9.6.3.9

Comments:

This interpretation applies to new fire alarm systems and to existing systems when the authority having jurisdiction deems that the current system could create confusion in an emergency.

Question: Are audible fire alarm notification devices required to be a uniform, consistent signal throughout a protected building?

Response: Yes.

Fire alarm audible devices must produce a single notification sound. Where a system contains a combination of signals such as horns, bells and/or chimes, confusion over the intent of the signal can occur.

This interpretation does not prohibit special circumstances where multiple signals may be found in a single building. This includes mixed occupancies such as assembly and educational occupancies.

An example is a fire alarm system in a school that also contains assembly area such as a gymnasium and auditorium that can be occupied by more than 300 people each. The assembly area must have voice evacuation capabilities. Speakers for the voice evacuation system must be placed throughout the assembly areas. The remainder of the school is permitted to utilize a different signal such as horns. The horn units should be limited to areas outside of the assembly occupancies so that the horn and speaker signals do not overlap causing the voice announcements to be misunderstood or not heard at all.

Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Title: Dennis C. Hohbein, State of Nebraska Fire Marshal